

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6175

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH ZA

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN REACTION TO ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIAN IMPASSE

REF: LUSAKA 2126

1. IN MY MEETING WITH KAUNDA'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT CHONA JULY 21 ON NAMIBIA (REFTEL), HE BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF RHODESIA. SEEMINGLY COMPLETELY RELAXED, HE NOTED THAT THE REJECTION BY SMITH OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE CAME AS NO SURPRISE. THIS IS WHAT HE AND KAUNDA HAD EXPECTED ALL ALONG. IN A WAY, THE "FAILURE" OF THE INITIATIVE MIGHT BE A GOOD THING BECAUSE IT MIGHT LEAD TO STRENGTHENED U.S. RESOLVE TO GET RID OF SMITH. MAYBE, HE SURMIZED, THE U.S. MIGHT NOW BE READY TO PUT IT TO SMITH THAT HE "IS THE GREATEST PROMOTER OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN AFRICA" AND AS SUCH IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT HE LEFT THE AFRICAN SCENE.

2. CHONA DID NOT MENTION THE INTERNAL OPTION AND SPOKE
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ONLY OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE WITH THE ARMED STRUGGLE. AS HE BECAME POPULAR WITH HIM, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE U.S. BEING MISLEAD BY THE BRITISH. THEY WERE JUST LIKE SMITH--NOT SERIOUS ABOUT BRINGING SMITH DOWN AND ONLY INTENT ON DELAY. THE BRITISH PRIMARILY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING THEIR INVESTMENTS AND THE SAFETY OF THEIR KITH AND KIN.

3. CHONA SAID HE DID HAVE ONE IMPORTANT MESSAGE THAT HE WOULD LIKE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THAT IS THAT ZAMBIA EXPECTS TO BE THE SUBJECT OF PRE-EMPTIVE RAIDS BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST 31. THE SITUATION ON THE BORDER, HE SAID, IS HEATING UP AND ZAMBIA IS MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY BEING FIRED UPON BY RHODESIAN FORCES. CHONA DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE COSE THE JULY TO AUGUST 31 PERIOD AS ONE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT KAUNDA IS WORRIED ABOUT PRE-EMPTIVE RAIDS FROM RHODESIA BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST 31 BECAUSE HE IS AWARE THAT ZAPU IS LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA BY STAGING RAIDS FROM ZAMBIA. IF THIS OCCURS, AS SEEMS LIKELY, THE ZAMBIANS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY FEARFUL THAT THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO RHODESIAN MILITARY ATTENTION.
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